

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant's Attorney would like to express his gratitude to the Examiner for permitting a telephone call in the present case on July 11, 2005, regarding the Examiner's making of the first Office Action after the filing of the Request for Continued Examination final. The Examiner's courteous demeanor was appreciated.

Next, Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner, in the final Office Action, indicated that claims 10 and 12-26 are allowed and that claims 3-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, the only claims rejected in the final Office Action were claims 2 and 11.

In an effort to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant has above-amended some of the claims of the present application. It should be noted, however, that Applicant still respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claim 2 as not being novel in view of the teachings of Robb, for at least the reasons previously stated. Nonetheless, the above-cancelled claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice and Applicant hereby reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications containing claims directed to the subject matter of the cancelled and/or amended claims, as well as to any unclaimed subject matter.

Applicant has above requested that claim 2 be cancelled. Claim 3 has simultaneously been re-written in independent format to include all of the limitations of claim 2 from which it depended. Accordingly, claim 3 should now be in condition for allowance after entry of the requested amendment. Claims 4-9 depend, directly or indirectly, from now allowable claim 3 and are likewise now allowable.

An amendment to Claim 11 has been requested above to change its dependence from claim 2 so as to depend directly from now allowable claim 3 and is likewise now allowable.

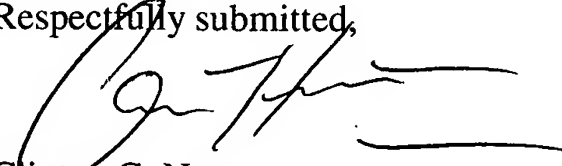
With claim 2 cancelled, claim 3 now allowable, and claim 11 now dependant therefrom, all pending claims in the present application will be in condition for allowance after enter of the above-requested amendments. Such action is requested.

It should be noted that, while the Patent Office required language of "presently amended" has been included above to indicate the status of claim 3, Applicant submits that claim 3 has in fact not been amended, as its scope has remained identical to its scope at the time of the original filing. Instead, claim 3 has simply been rewritten as an independent claim. Its scope, however, has not been amended.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will in any way expedite the handling of this case, he is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at (800) 821-7962 for an issue resolving conference.

Applicant does not believe any fees are required with the present Amendment After Final. However, should any fees be necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amounts required, or credit any overpayment, to deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,



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